AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic still camera comprising:

an image pickup element provided in an optically isolated space which is opened and closed by a shutter;

an image pickup optical system which makes object light incident upon the image pickup element; and

a sealing member ~~extending between and including~~ having a first end portion affixed to the shutter and further having a second end portion affixed to the image pickup element, and configured to seal an image pickup light path extending from the shutter to the image pickup element.

2. (Currently Amended) The electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member comprises a tubular member which surrounds a light path space extending from the shutter ~~and~~ to the image pickup element.

3. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 2, wherein said tubular member is configured to be extendable and contractible in an optical axis direction of the image pickup optical system; and

wherein an optical element is fitted in an opening of said tubular member on an object side to seal the tubular member.

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member comprises a tubular member which surrounds a light path space extending from the shutter ~~and~~ to an image pickup surface of the image pickup element, wherein said tubular member is extendable and contractible in an optical axis direction of the image pickup optical

system, said tubular member being closely connected, at the end thereof which defines an opening end on the object side, to a frame member, which restricts an aperture which is opened and closed by the shutter, and an optical element which seals the frame member.

5. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 3, wherein said tubular member is in close contact, at an end surface thereof defining the opening on the object side, with the frame member which restricts the aperture opened and closed by the shutter.

6. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 3, wherein said optical element is secured to the frame member.

7. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 3, wherein said optical member is a transparent plane-parallel plate.

8. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 3, wherein said optical element comprises at least one of a low-pass filter and an infrared absorption filter.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic still camera comprising:

an image pickup element provided in an optically isolated space which is opened and closed by a shutter;

an image pickup optical system configured to make object light incident upon the image pickup element; and

a frame member configured to restrict an aperture which is opened and closed by the shutter, said frame member being provided with at least one of a low-pass filter and an infrared absorption filter secured thereto; and

a tubular sealing member surrounding a light path space extending from the shutter to the image pickup element, said tubular sealing member comprising:

a first end portion affixed to the shutter; and

a second end portion affixed to the image pickup element, wherein:

said tubular sealing member configured to seal an image pickup light path extending from the shutter to the image pickup element, and

the at least one of the low-pass filter and the infrared absorption filter is sealed by the sealing member.

10. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said low-pass filter and the infrared absorption filter are cemented to each other.

11. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said low-pass filter is closely secured to the frame member which is located closer to the image pickup element than the shutter.

12. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said infrared absorption filter is secured to the frame member, the frame member located closer to the image pickup element than the shutter.

13. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein one of said low-pass filter and said infrared absorption filter is secured to the frame member, is the frame member located closer to an object than the shutter.

14. (Original) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said infrared absorption filter is secured to the frame member, is the frame member located closer to an object than the shutter.

15. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 1, further comprising an optical filter fitted in an opening at an object side of said sealing member.

16. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said frame member is provided at an object side of the optically isolated space.

17. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said frame member supports the shutter.

18. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member is elastic.

19. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member is generally bellows shaped.

20. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said sealing member is elastic.

21. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein said sealing member is generally bellows shaped.

22. (Previously Presented) The electronic still camera according to claim 9, wherein the shutter is mounted on the frame member.